

THE
FUTURE
OF
AMERICA'S
NATIONAL
PARKS

First Annual
Centennial Strategy for

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: SEKI

Year: 2007

Vision Statement

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are located in the heart of California near increasingly urban multinational communities that have the highest poverty rates in the state. These parks face incredible environmental pressures including air pollution, climate change, and non native species. Committed park staff is prepared to face these challenges.

In 2016, these parks will connect with diverse populations by providing improved accessibility to the parks, multi-language interpretive and media programs, and innovative technologies that capture people's senses and imagination. Through various experiential learning programs, both in classrooms and in the parks, the region's youth will explore these parks and develop a sense of stewardship. The parks will facilitate the growth of scientific knowledge through collaboration with educational partners and researchers.

Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks will lead by example in the face of climate change. The parks' fleet and facilities will be the best in alternative technology available. Sustainable and climate friendly facilities, utilities, structures, and transportation systems will be showcased and inspire Americans.

These parks will restore various ecosystems, including oak woodlands and wetlands, to protect sensitive and threatened species by monitoring environmental conditions and removing non-native species. Through the eradication of illegal marijuana production, oak woodland and chaparral ecosystems will be restored, thereby creating a safer environment for both park visitors and employees. These parks will continue to be strong leaders in fire management practices that consider fire ecology, community protection, and human health as key tenets.

Staff excellence and strong partnerships will ensure the protection and care of these entrusted treasures. Enhanced partnerships with Sequoia Parks Foundation, Sequoia Natural History Association, UC Merced, City of Visalia, and others will foster the philanthropy and collaboration these parks will need for their future.

Training, experience, and support will enable a healthy, safe and committed park staff to be leaders who project this vision into the next century. Key to this is a mentorship program for these future leaders which will provide them the tools to better conserve these parks for the enjoyment of current and future generations. Through this vision, Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks will inspire the preservation of park lands everywhere.

Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Craig C. Axtell

Site: SEKI

STEWARDSHIP

Provide inspiring, safe, and accessible places for people to enjoy - the standard to which all other park systems aspire.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- expand closed-captioning (multi-lingual and hearing impairments) on park audiovisual and interpretive installations
- expand safety aspect of marijuana interdiction and eradication program
- assess and improve facilities and programs for accessibility (language and physical disabilities) and provide improved information for visitors prior to their arrival
- provide accessibility training for park employees.

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SEKI

STEWARDSHIP

Improve the condition of park resources and assets.

Rehabilitate high-priority historic buildings to good condition, and help communities to preserve their history through programs like Preserve America.

- preserve and restore high priority cultural assets
- train park staff in DOI Secretary of Interior Standards on historic preservation

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Restore native habitats by controlling invasive species and reintroducing key plant and animal species.

- restore wilderness and chaparral plant communities (marijuana damage)
- remove non-native species and prevent further reintroduction
- restore wetlands and other impacted ecosystems
- protect sensitive and threatened plants and animals

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Improve high-priority assets to acceptable condition, as measured by the Facility Condition Index.

- improve condition of high API assets to good
- develop and implement a Park Asset Management Plan (PAMP)
- dispose of low priority assets in poor condition
- maintain high priority assets in "good" condition at a standard to preserve the "good" rating

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SEKI

STEWARDSHIP

Assure that no compelling chapter in the American heritage experience remains untold and that strategically important landscapes are acquired, as authorized by Congress.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- provide broad interpretive messages on significant topics

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Site: SEKI

STEWARDSHIP

Serve as the Preeminent resource laboratory by applying excellence in science and scholarship to understand and respond to environmental changes.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- complete development of inventory and monitoring protocols
- implement inventory and monitoring protocols
- implement UC-Merced Agreement to cooperate on scholarship and research
- establish cooperative field research station
- facilitate appropriate research by partners
- conduct research to inform science-based management
- conduct resource monitoring in support of adaptive management
- conduct an all taxa biotic inventory
- facilitate climate change research with partners

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Site: SEKI

STEWARDSHIP

Encourage children to be future conservationists.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- develop and implement Rangers in the Classroom, including Rangers in the Classroom-Technology components
- increase number of junior rangers
- expand programs at Beetle Rock Nature Center
- expand Sequoia for Youth (partnership with Kiwanis club) opportunities for underprivileged youth
- adopt a fourth grade class from 2007 through 2016
- expand WildLink
- increase in-park education programs
- support science education in local schools

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SEKI

ENVIRONMENT

Reduce environmental impacts of park operations.

Reduce the environmental impacts of park operations on air and water quality.

- convert a percentage of park fleet to hybrids
- convert to bio-diesel
- develop and implement Environmental Management Systems to promote sustainable operations

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- complete baseline emissions inventory
- expand recycling program

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SEKI

ENVIRONMENT

Inspire an environmental conscience in Americans.

Establish programs to showcase exemplary environmental practices and increase visitor awareness of how the practices apply to their daily lives, as measured by surveys.

• encourage park visitors and outreach participants via various programs to be environmental stewards/leaders

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Demonstrate environmental excellence through increased use of alternative energy and fuels at every park.

• convert park fleet to hybrids
• convert to bio-diesel
• prepare and implement headquarters energy plan (photovoltaic, HVAC, insulation, etc.)

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Serve as a model for energy efficiency, under Executive Order 13423, by ensuring Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards.

• support park shuttle; expand service
• convert fleet to hybrids as example to visiting public

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SEKI

ENVIRONMENT

Engage partners, communities, and visitors in shared environmental stewardship.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- continue partnership with Visalia shuttle; expand service
- develop and implement UC-Merced Agreement
- conduct marijuana removal with partners and emphasize it is an environmental issue, not just a law enforcement issue
- work with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District on smoke management best practices
- increase VIP hours
- continue Military Wilderness Trip
- continue involvement in Central and Southern Sierra Wilderness Management Group and Sierra Nevada Wilderness Education Project
- continue involvement with Sierra Interagency Black Bear Group
- work with concessioners and inholders to foster their participation in environmentally sound land stewardship
- develop diverse messages to reach diverse publics
- work with adjacent land management agencies on common issues

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Site: SEKI

RECREATION

Encourage collaboration among and assist park and recreation systems at every level—federal, regional, state, local—to help build an outdoor recreation network accessible to all Americans.

Rehabilitate over 2,000 miles of trails within or connected to national parks, including trails accessible to those with disabilities.

- develop additional accessible trails
- rehabilitate Tokopah Falls trail
- maintain high priority trail assets in a "good" condition
- utilize Conservation Corps participation in our trail maintenance program
- concentrate rehabilitation and FLREA funds on high priority trail assets in "poor" condition

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- expand WildLink
- continue involvement with interagency wilderness committee
- coordinate the establishment and collection of common user fees with other agencies
- participate as an IMBA Partner
- partner with UC-Merced and Yosemite and others to bring students to park for recreation, internships, etc.

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Site: SEKI

RECREATION

Establish "volun-tourism" excursions to national parks for volunteers to help achieve natural and cultural resource protection goals.

Increase annual volunteer hours by 100 percent, from 5.2 million hours to 10.4 million hours.

- establish full-time VIP coordinator
- expand VIP Program to include service project for all age groups, schoolchildren through elders

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- create partnerships with commercial tour groups that provide "volun-tourism" programs

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Site: SEKI

RECREATION

Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- develop and implement Rangers in the Classroom, including Rangers in the Classroom-Technology components
- expand Sequoia for Youth
- each of our two parks adopt a fourth grade class and work with them until they graduate in 2016
- increase use of existing park facilities by boys and girls organizations through participation in service projects

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Site: SEKI

RECREATION

Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

- partner with local and regional tourism entities
- expand outreach to multicultural media

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- continue partnership with Visalia shuttle; expand service

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SEKI

EDUCATION

Cooperate with educators to provide curriculum materials, high-quality programs, and park-based and online learning.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- expand in-park education programs
- expand Sequoia for Youth
- each of our two parks adopt a fourth grade class and work with them until they graduate in 2016
- develop and implement Rangers in the Classroom, including Rangers in the Classroom-Technology components

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Site: SEKI

EDUCATION

Introduce young people and their families to national parks by using exciting media and technology.

Increase the number of web hits through the introduction of advanced, interactive features that attract young people to national parks.

- provide technology downloading stations for iPods, pocket PCs, etc
- improve park websites

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SEKI

EDUCATION

Promote life-long learning to connect generations through park experiences.

Enroll an additional two million children in the Junior Ranger program.

- Incorporate Junior Ranger program information into all ranger talks and programs

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- establish a distance learning program
- participate in the Teach Families to Camp program
- ensure park facilities support multi-generational activities
- expand intergenerational interpretive activities

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Site: SEKI

EDUCATION

Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

- continue to educate the public on the mission of their national parks
- assure daily park operations are fully funded and staffed, and the condition of the facilities is reflective of these efforts

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: SEKI

PROFESSIONALISM

Be one of the top 10 places to work in America.

Meet 100 percent of diversity recruitment goals by employing people who reflect the face of America.

• Increase recruitment activities in multicultural communities in the Central Valley

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Attain the highest employee satisfaction rate of all federal agencies, as measured by Office of Personnel Management surveys.

• work with partners to provide information on employee benefits for temporary workers
• become a learning organization that values employee input

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Site: SEKI

PROFESSIONALISM

Use strategic planning to promote management excellence.

Establish a structured professional development curriculum to provide park managers with the skills to apply best business practices and superior leadership.

• develop and implement a leadership mentoring program and structured curriculum for park employees

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

• develop and implement a BCP implementation plan
• make the strategic plan a working document by updating frequently to incorporate new information
• develop and implement a Park Asset Management Plan
• apply nationwide business practices and principles to park asset management program.

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Site: SEKI

PROFESSIONALISM

Promote a safety and health culture for all employees and visitors.

Reduce the number of employee lost-time incidents and serious visitor injuries by 20 percent.

- reduce DARTS by 25% over FY07
- manage hazards proactively, including visitor education

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Site: SEKI

PROFESSIONALISM

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

- engage partners at multiple levels
- develop proactive collaborative management with stakeholders

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Site: SEKI

PROFESSIONALISM

Make national parks the first choice in philanthropic giving among those concerned about environmental, cultural, and recreational values.

Improve communications and marketing capacity to increase public understanding of our mission, opportunities, and benefits.

- improve park websites using new technology
- provide video downloads for iPods, pocket PCs, etc
- support Sequoia Parks Foundation
- use partnerships to further develop knowledge of philanthropic organizations

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